Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. Historic and projected lake levels are derived by the Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada, under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology May 2007

During May, precipitation was below average on each of the Great Lake basins. Over the last 12 months precipitation over the Lake Superior basin has also been below average. Lake Michigan-Huron has received near normal precipitation, while the lakes Erie and Ontario basins received above average precipitation over the same 12 month period. For the month of May, the net supply of water was also well below average for each basin. The table below lists May precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

The water level on each lake was below its long term (1918 to 2006) average during the month of May. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie were 20, 17 and 4 inches below average, respectively. Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were3 and 2 inches above average, respectively. Boaters should be aware of increased hazards to navigation due to current low water conditions.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)									
BASIN	May				12-Month Comparison				
	2007	Average (1900-1999)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-1999)	Diff.	% of Average	
Superior	2.28	2.74	-0.46	83	23.96	30.52	-6.56	79	
Michigan-Huron	1.59	2.98	-1.39	53	31.12	32.18	-1.06	97	
Erie	1.49	3.28	-1.79	45	40.95	35.04	5.91	117	
Ontario	1.71	3.06	-1.35	56	38.87	35.35	3.52	110	
Great Lakes	1.78	2.95	-1.17	60	31.16	32.42	-1.26	96	

	May WATER S	SUPPLIES ² (cfs)	May OUTFLOW³ (cfs)		
LAKE	2007 ¹	Average ⁵	2007 ¹	Average ⁴	
		(1900-1999)		(1900-1999)	
Superior	79,000	184,000	53,000	75,000	
Michigan-Huron	144,000	249,000	162,000	190,000	
Erie	22,000	46,000	215,000	213,000	
Ontario	45,000	60,000	282,000	260,000	

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Estimated

² Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

³ Does not include diversions.

⁴ Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2005, respectively

⁵ Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989